

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea/China

SUBJECT Friction Between Koreans and Chinese in Manchuria

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1. The Korean population of Manchuria, and particularly the Korean Volunteer Corps from Yenian, held the controlling power in the old Chientao Province* immediately after the end of World War II. Before the Chinese Communist forces moved in, they had established new political organs, carried out land reform, and purged and imprisoned wealthy families. Their military power was strong and was increased by the establishment of a military academy in the area. In March 1949, the Korean Volunteer Corps was credited with repelling the Chinese Nationalist forces from Ssuningchieh and Changchun. After this success, however, they were returned to North Korea to help form an army there.
2. From the large Korean population remaining in Manchuria, a small Korean militia was organized, including both men and women over 18 years old. Its numbers eventually reached 100,000. The militia was responsible originally for police and defense functions, but it also assumed some executive powers. This situation caused friction with local Chinese Communist residents, who were dissatisfied with the extent of Korean influence and wished to eliminate it from Chinese territory.
3. When the North Korean invasion of the south began, the Chinese Communist Party ordered all Korean members of the militia in Manchuria to return to North Korea. Part of them were put into military units there, part assigned to work in munitions factories and mines. The militia in Manchuria were replaced by Chinese Communist army forces.
4. Immediate difficulties developed between the newly arrived Chinese forces and the remaining Korean residents of the area. The Communists carried out a program against Korean influence, using both direct and indirect means and urged on by the indigenous Chinese population. Koreans felt that Chinese "atrocities" against them were worse than those experienced under CHANG Hsueh-liang. After one skirmish with Chinese troops in the latter part of June 1950, eighty Korean families from San Ho Ts'un, Holung Hsien (120-33, 42-38) moved to Hoeryong (120-45, 42-25). An incident in which Chinese fired on Koreans and killed three led to the removal of ten families from Hunchun Hsien (130-22, 42-52) to Kyongwon (130-10, 42-50). A number of other attacks of Chinese on Koreans caused additional movement across the border.**

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5. Constant friction occurs between Koreans still resident in Manchuria and the controlling Chinese Communist authorities. The Koreans feel that they have no backing from the North Korean government and are therefore faced with the alternative of becoming Chinese serfs or returning to North Korea.

25X1 * Comment. This was one of the administrative divisions of Manchuria under the Japanese. It included the area in northeast Manchuria along the central part of the Korean border.

25X1 ** Comment. The Chinese Communist policy is apparently to remove all Korean nationals from Manchuria.

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